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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic and merciful God, You and You alone have brought us to this moment. Thank you for the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies. Help us to know that You often speak to us in whispers. May we hear Your still small voice in the despair of those who lack the means to help themselves.

Speak to us also in the difficult issues that confront our leaders and may they choose right over political expediency. Give us the ability to shut out yesterday's disappointments and tomorrow's fears. Teach us, Lord, to count our blessings that we might cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Help us to cherish the freedom of this land but emancipate us from the slavery of sin. We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, under the order from last week, the Senate will resume consideration of the gun manufacturers liability bill for the final amendments and debate. This morning until 11:35 the remaining

amendments enumerated in the list will be offered in the debate time and the time will be equally divided.

At 11:35 this morning, the Senate will begin a series of stacked rollcall votes. I would expect approximately seven votes to occur, including final passage in this series of votes. Both parties do have their weekly policy luncheons and therefore I expect we will pause after the third vote or so and recess to allow those meetings to occur.

When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15, we will resume the voting sequence until we vote on final passage of the pending gun manufacturers liability legislation. It will, thus, be a busy morning and afternoon.

I encourage Members to remain on the floor or in close proximity to avoid missing any votes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that following the first vote the remaining votes in the sequence prior to the luncheon be limited to 10 minutes each. I further ask that when the Senate reconvenes at 2:15, the first vote be 15 minutes under the standing order, with all remaining votes in the sequence limited to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. As I indicated last week, following the conclusion of this bill, the Senate will next take up consideration of the jumpstart jobs bill, also known as FSC/ETI. I will have more to say on that and the schedule later today, following the completion of the gun manufacturers bill. I thank everyone for their attention.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that following the first votes we will have our usual weekly conferences, is that true?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct. We will do three votes under the time agree-

ment we just agreed to. We may adjust that as the day goes on, but that would be the plan.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

YIELDING OF TIME

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as the majority leader has indicated, the time is allocated now for the debate on the amendments that are pending. At 11:15, I will yield 5 minutes of my time to Senator KERRY and yield 10 minutes each to Senators JACK REED, MCCAIN, and FEINSTEIN, with the remainder of the time outside of that allocation to Senator HARRY REID for his own managerial decisions with regard to the allocation of the balance of the time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1805, which the clerk will report.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1805) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Pending:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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